



State Board of Registration for Land Surveyors

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Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr

MEMORANDUM

To: Indiana Registered Land Surveyors
From: The State Board of Registration for Land Surveyors
Date: April 17, 2012
Subject: Possible Change in Requirements to Become Registered as an Indiana Land Surveyor

A sub-committee of the State Board of Registration for Land Surveyors has begun discussions to update the board's rules. The board's statutory charge is specific to safeguarding the life, health, and property of the citizens of the state of Indiana. In order to meet this charge without constantly reacting to unanticipated developments and forces beyond its control, the board must look to the future.

With that in mind, the sub-committee has recognized the need for changes to the rules that lay the groundwork to assure the protection of the public's interest in the future, and the long-term integrity of the surveying profession with respect to its obligations to the public.

As part of this effort, the sub-committee has determined that one of the proposed changes will be to require a four-year degree for registration.

The sub-committee realizes that this step will be met with skepticism by some and enthusiasm by others. While it is intimately familiar with all of the arguments against such a requirement, it also hopes that registrants will understand this step is not an indictment or criticism of anything or anyone - today or in the past. It is simply an acknowledgment of rapidly changing and significant social, regulatory, legal and technological challenges the profession will face in the near future.

In addition to the fact that any change to the rules of the board takes quite a long time to accomplish, the sub-committee also acknowledges that it would be ill-advised, and just plain wrong, to make such a change without including a substantial phase-in period so that no one currently in, or close to, "the pipeline" would be negatively affected.

All new applicants, at the time of implementation of this change, would need to meet one of the following requirements:

- Show proof of having a minimum of a four-year ABET-accredited land-surveying/geomatics degree; or

- Show proof of having a four-year degree, together with the core surveying, math, and science coursework defined in 865 IAC 1-2-1(d)*

With all of this in mind, the sub-committee is seeking your input on how you believe this new requirement could be most successfully implemented.

Please submit any suggestions by email to: pla10@pla.in.gov or by mail at the address above.

* At this time, 865 IAC 1-2-1(d) provides that:

(d) The education of all applicants must include the following minimum level of education:

(1) Twelve (12) semester credit hours in college level mathematics, including at least a three (3) semester credit hour course in calculus or differential equations.

(2) Five (5) semester credit hours in college level physics.

(3) Six (6) semester credit hours in any of the following college level science subjects:

(A) Chemistry.

(B) Astronomy.

(C) Physics.

(D) Geology.

(E) Botany.

(F) Dendrology.

(4) Twenty-seven (27) semester credit hours in college level land surveying courses consisting of the following:

(A) Courses in each of the following six (6) subjects totaling at least eighteen (18) semester credit hours:

(i) Land survey systems.

(ii) Property surveys.

(iii) Property descriptions, writing, and analysis.

(iv) Surveying law.

(v) Surveying calculations, including mensuration statistics.

(vi) Subdivision planning and design.

(B) Courses in at least three (3) of the following subjects totaling at least nine (9) semester credit hours:

(i) Topographic surveying.

(ii) Photogrammetric surveying.

(iii) Route surveying.

(iv) Construction surveying.

(v) Control surveying.

One (1) basic engineering course related to roads, storm drainage, and sanitary sewer extensions may be counted toward the requirements of this clause.